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The Artists of Carnival

The face is a canvas for local makeup artists



The parades of Carnival are filled with glitter and glamour. Elaborate displays of feathers, crystals, and sequins are painstakingly put together through months of work. But the final touch of a costume happens just hours before the start of the parade when makeup artists wave their magic wands to bring the complete fantasy to life.

Carnival makeup is a true art form, requiring a steady, practiced hand combined with limitless imagination. Most Carnival makeup artists are professionally trained in everyday makeup and work in the beauty business, but parade makeup requires additional creativity and artistry. "Carnival makeup leaves more room for expression and is much more dynamic," says Martin Acosta, a local hair stylist and

makeup artist who has lent his talents to many of *Island Temptations'* front covers and fashion pictorials. Adds Dufry's Clinique specialist, Rafael Bautista, "With everyday makeup, you are just looking to accent features in a natural way. For Carnival, you also want to accent a client's features, but you need to transform the face to accent the costume as well."

Carnival parades see thousands of participants—many of whom have spent thousands of dollars on spectacular costumes that are not complete without complementary makeup. Yet there are only a handful of professional makeup artists on the Island to accommodate this heavy demand. The artists start as early as midnight and work all the way up until minutes before parade time. "My record is 30 faces

for one parade," informs Andrew Curiel, who did the makeup for our current front cover as well as our Carnival 50 collector's edition.

Carmen Geertman, a marketing professional for Colombian Emeralds International, says that throughout the year, ideas pop into her head and she sketches them on paper, "but most of the time, the creation is made based on the theme of the costume and the colors."

All of the artists agree that Carnival allows them to indulge their creativity because really, anything goes. The Aruban people are so open to new and different ideas that they make the perfect canvas for an artist!



Andrew Curiel

Andrew began experimenting with Carnival makeup 23 years ago when he danced in a professional group that performed at some of Aruba's resorts. When he realized how much he enjoyed it, he took several courses internationally to learn advanced techniques for theatre makeup.

Today he is a member of The Powder Group, an international organization of celebrity makeup artists that works with top modeling agencies worldwide and conducts lectures and workshops.

By day, Andrew is a sales executive for Gucci, but he devotes his free time to honing his craft as well as designing costumes for his own Carnival section every year.



Rafael Bautista

Rafael spent his childhood painting, and when he entered the cosmetic and skincare industry several years ago, he realized that his childhood passion of painting on canvas translated well to faces.

Six years ago Rafael participated in a Carnival parade and did his own makeup. He received so many compliments and requests that he decided to take on clients. He has been painting Carnival faces ever since.

Rafael's skincare background with Clinique also comes into play, as he recommends that cleansing, hydrating, and using sun protection are a must for achieving the perfect foundation before applying makeup.



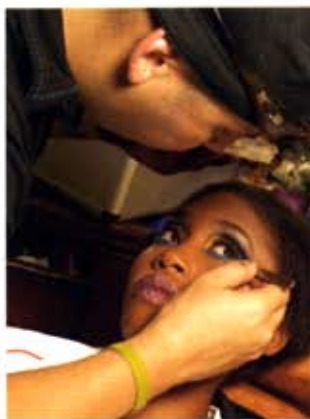


Carmen Geerman

"Color is all around us; you only need to be inspired and play with it." These are the words of advice that Carmen received from a family friend when she was experimenting with art as a child. She went on to study professional makeup for five years in Canada, where she was trained in makeup application for theatre, film, and print.

Carmen's first foray into Carnival makeup came in 1997 when she had four clients. Many people found her work to be unique and exciting, and the following year her list grew to 15 faces. The artist currently does anywhere from 30 to 35 Carnival faces—so many that she has several assistants joining her.





Martin Acosta

Martin began his career as a stylist and makeup artist working with the Miss Venezuela pageants. Five years ago he joined famed local designer Ronchi de Cuba's organization to help launch Beauty Team, one of the Island's top salons.

"Working with Ronchi has allowed me to enjoy a multifaceted career that offers so much variety," says Martin. He really takes pleasure in the Carnival experience, as it allows him to experiment and bring fantasy into his designs. "Nothing is more inspiring than when a client has complete faith in my skills and just tells me to do my thing!"